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go far towards accounting for Dr. Peters's 50,000,000 missing Germans. Even if these were accounted for, they would only put the two races on an equality, and Dr. Peters implies that the Germans ought to have maintained their superiority.

The description of German East Africa, its resources and prospects, is written with knowledge and sobriety and good sense. The German possessions are neither the best nor the worst on the coast. There are tracts which offer the requisite conditions for successful culture: good soil, heat and a supply of water. If the country is neither a Ceylon nor an India, its most sterile districts nowhere sink to the level of the real desert. With roads and railroads and steady, well-directed industry applied to the soil, the future prosperity of this broad region, nearly twice the size of the Empire, is assured. About a fourth part of the area is at an elevation of 4,000 feet above the sea, and may be regarded as suitable for European settlement ; but the Europeans seem to be more interested in dividing than in settling Africa.

Dr. Peters's book is full of information, some of it of a superfluous kind. The *giant mountain*, Kilimanjaro, fascinates him, and, on p. 114, he takes the trouble to go through a calculation of its mass. This amounts, according to him, to 6,414 cubic kilometres, the weight of which is 12,828,000,000,000,000 kilogrammes, or 12,828 milliards of tons. It may be doubted whether any mountain was ever so handled before; but how does Dr. Peters know that Kilimanjaro is solid and not a bubble, or hollow mockery, on the face of the earth?

Numerous and excellent illustrations and three folding maps add to the value of this work.

Sopra Tre Speciali Projezioni Meridiane e i Mappamondi Ovali del Secolo XVI. M. Fiorini. 8vo. (reprint.) *Roma, Società Geografica Italiana. 1895.*

In this pamphlet Prof. Fiorini continues his instructive studies in cartography. The three special projections indicated in the title are: that proposed by the Arab geographer Albiruni in the year 1000, and adopted by Nicolosi, Delisle and Arrowsmith; that of Roger Bacon, which was sometimes employed in the sixteenth century; and that to which Prof. Fiorini gives the name of *equidistant meridian projection.* This last was in favour during part of the sixteenth century, and later examples of it are found in the Mercator Atlas of 1623 and in Fournier's *Hydrographie*, of 1667.

The oval projection, of which the *Typus Orbis Terrarum* in the

ORTELIUS of 1570 is a remarkable specimen, was in vogue for two centuries; its latest appearance, so far as known to Prof. Fiorini, being in Lotter's *Mappemonde* of 1783, in which the equatorial and polar diameters are, respectively, of 92 and 46 centimetres.

Cabinets and tables of ebony and other costly materials, adorned with the map of the world on the oval projection, inlaid in ivory, are preserved in the Trivulzi collection at Milan, in that of Count Emanuel Bertone and in the museum of the Chartreuse of San Martino at Naples.

Geogenetische Beiträge von Dr. Otto Kuntze, Membre de l'Académie Internationale de Géographie Botanique, Ordentlichem, Ausländischem und Ehren-Mitgliede mehrerer gelehrter Gesellschaften. Mit 7 Textbildern und 2 Profilen. 8vo. Leipzig, Gressner & Schramm, 1895.

The subjects of these Contributions are: Oscillation of Level in the Andes without a Catastrophe; Denudation of Deserts, at present and in the Carboniferous Age; Origin of the Chilian Saltpetre; Silicification and Petrifaction of Woods; Continental Salt-formation; and the Origin of Coal, whether from vegetation *in situ* (autochthon), from transported vegetation (allochthon), or from the sea (pelagochthon).

Dr. Kuntze finds his evidence for the quiet changes of level in the Andes in the beds of iron-stained sands and laterite and in the similar flora of widely-separated regions, such as southern Chile and south-western Patagonia, on the one hand, and the coast mountain ranges of southern Brazil, on the other.

The supposed evidences of glacial action in the pampas are referred to the wind and the changes of temperature.

The deposits of saltpetre are attributed by Dr. Kuntze and by other authorities to the llamas and the guanacos.

The paper on Petrifaction of Woods is a sharp reply to a criticism of the author's views by Dr. A. Rothpletz.

The salt-deposits in regions remote from the sea are held to be the result of the decomposition of minerals containing chlorine.

Dr. Kuntze comes to the conclusion, after a long and learned argument, that the coal-formations are of marine origin,* and he meets the objection based on the rootlets of the plant *Stigmaria* by affirming that the supposed rootlets are floating leaves. A sys-

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*...ist die pelagochthone Entstehung Carbonischer Kohlenfelder die einzige richtige Erklärung;...(p. 77).